

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 05373 071332Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAB-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 /076 W

----- 115648

P R 071218Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5308

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARIO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO,XF

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN AUGUST 6 INTERVIEW WITH UNITED PRESS  
INTERNATIONAL (UPI)

1. TEXT OF UPI INTERVIEW UNAVAILABLE HERE, BUT GOJ NEWS AGENCY  
HIGHLIGHTED FOLLOWING ASPECTS WHICH RECEIVING HEAVY COVERAGE IN  
LOCAL MEDIA: A. HAWK MISSILES - FAILURE OF U.S. TO SUPPLY WILL  
ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. -JORDANIAN RELATIONS, REDUCE U.S. CREDIBILITY  
AMONG ARABS, AND COULD LEAD TO ULTIMATE PURCHASE OF WEAPONS  
FROM USSR ALTHOUGH EUROPEAN SOURCES NOT DISCARDED; B. ANOTHER  
MID-EAST WAR - KING'S FEAR THAT JORDAN INEVITABLY WOULD BE DRAWN  
IN BECAUSE IT IS BUFFER BETWEEN ISRAELI TARGETS IN SYRIA AND  
POSSIBLY OIL PRODUCERS TO SOUTH; KING ALSO SUSPECTS MILITARY  
RE-EQUIPED ISRAEL WANTS WAR TO GAIN FURTHER TERRITORY; C. SYRIA-  
JORDAN MILITARY TIES - CLOSER MILITARY COOPERATION, NO JOINT  
COMMAND "ALTHOUGH IT IS MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION."

2. KING'S STATEMENTS AS REPORTED LOCALLY DO NOT RPT NOT  
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 05373 071332Z

DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM HIS EARLIER RECENT REMARKS TO JOURNALISTS

ON SAME SUBJECTS (AMMAN 4681 AND PREVIOUS). NOTEWORTHY THAT WHILE HE REFERRED TO USSR OPTION FOR MILLILE ACQUISITION, HUSSEIN SPECIFIED EUROPE AS FIRST ALTERNATIVE TO U.S. SOURCE. RELATIONSHIP OF HAWK SALES TO U.S. CREDIBILITY AMONG ARABS BEGINNING TO GET GREATER EMPHASIS. KING'S DISCUSSION OF RENEWED WAR PROSPECTS AND JORDAN'S INVOLVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS, AS IF BY DESIGN, DEFENSIVE NATURE OF JORDAN'S MILITARY CONCERN AND NEED. DIRECT DENIAL OF SYRIA/JORDAN JOINT MILITARY COMMAND CLEARS UP WHATEVER CONFUSION OR ILLUSIONS SOME MAY HAVE HAD FROM RECENT COMMIQUE FOLLOWING SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT (AMMAN 5234).

3. HUSSEIN OBVIOUSLY HAS DECIDED TO USE SERIES OF PRESS INTERVIEWS (HE SEEING ON 7 AUGUST NEWSWEEK, NY TIMES, WASH POST AND OTHER CORRESPONDENTS) TO KEEP WHATEVER PRESSURE HE CAN ON WASHINGTON RE HAWK MISSILE SALE AND TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF SYRIAN/JORDAN RAPPROACHMENT AND OF HIS OWN CURRENT ACCEPTABILITY AMONG FORWARD LEADERS OF ARAB WORLD. WE HAVE HEARD SOME CONCERN THAT KING'S FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH FUTURE EVENTS --E.G., U.S.- JORDAN RELATIONS IN EVENT FULL HAWK SALE FALLS THROUGH, JORDAN'S PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT -- REDUCED BY SOME OF HIS RECENT PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. HOWEVER, WITHIN LIMITS OF REQUIREMENTS OF HIS WISH TO KEEP BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS AND PUBLIC HIS DESIRES ON MISSILE SALES AND MAINTAIN HIS IMPROVED CREDENTIALS AMONG OTHER ARAB LEADERW, KING HAS MADE SPECIAL AND PUBLIC EFFORT IN PRESS INTERVIEWS TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN RE ISSUES SUCH AS SOURCES OTHER THAN U.S. FOR MISSILES, JORDAN'S ROLE IN FUTURE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT, AND DIRECTIONS OF CLOSER MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SYRIA.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** KING HUSSEIN AUGUST 6 INTERVIEW WITH UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI)  
**TAGS:** PFOR, JO, XF, (HUSSEIN I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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